

Historic events

May 21, 2020

History is in the making. But of course, that is always the case.

I'm not talking about the inconsequential happenings for which advertising copywriters claim earth-shattering significance. "The greatest upset in (name a sport) history" or "historic season ending" for an episodic television series misuse the term, but we're accustomed to hyperbole in advertising, so we let it go. My fave is "...in the history of" ... something that's only been going on a couple of years.

But truly, history is being made every day and it's tempting to think in terms of the bold strokes. COVID and a runaway administration and space flights and floods and virtual graduations. And so many other things going on that might never make the news but are historic in the context of the lives they affect – births and deaths and weddings and birthdays and first loose tooth and a new puppy and learning to ride a bicycle.

And then there are those events that don't seem significant at first but go on to become something of wide social import. Percy Spencer accidentally zaps a chocolate bar in his pants pocket and winds up inventing the microwave oven. George de Mestral notices burrs sticking to his dog's coat and goes on to invent Velcro. And my own favorite - Ruth Wakefield, owner of the Tollhouse Inn runs out of baker's chocolate, substitutes sweet chocolate flakes and invents the chocolate chip cookie.

My history is written in both action and inaction. As is yours. And theirs. And ours.

In the nooks and crannies of our lives, events are taking place that shape careers and families and friendships and not all of them need be noted by the wider world. They are ours to live and love and embrace and they determine who we are and where we will go.

Sheltering does not have to mean cowering, small does not have to mean unimportant and personal does not have to mean exclusive.

Want to make a difference in someone's life? Today, in some way large or small, you can make a difference in your own.

Start there.